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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/700,134	11/03/2003	James T. Treat	T10.004	9081
54857	7590	08/16/2005	EXAMINER	
R. TRACY CRUMP P.O. BOX 604 32790 DUNN ROAD NEW CARLISLE, IN 46552			NGUYEN, JOHN QUOC	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3654	

DATE MAILED: 08/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/700,134	TREAT, JAMES T.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	John Q. Nguyen	3654	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 July 2005.

2a) This action is **FINAL**.                    2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,3-6,8 and 10-13 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 2, 7, 9, 14 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admitted prior art in view of Hunt (US-5853164) and Galland (US-4311288).

Applicant's admitted prior art discussed on pages 1-2 of the specification discloses a strap winch mounted to trailers. It is deemed that the winch has the well-known u-shaped bracket as shown by Hunt (see at least fig. 3). Galland discloses a winding apparatus having a elongated cantilever 10 and removable crank and which can be mounted in a plurality of selected positions; to position the crank ("second end") end to extend beyond the trailer It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to facilitate turning the crank. Note the "ears", "first plate", and "second plate" in which the openings 16, 16', 18, 18' are provided for the crank; one set of openings can be considered the "storage position". It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to provide the admitted prior art with a winding apparatus as taught by Galland to wind the strap as desired. That the cantilever 10 extends laterally would have been an obvious intended use of the apparatus especially since the opening 44 and bolt 40 can be used to clamp the device to any suitable structure including portions of the u-shaped bracket.

Claims 4 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admitted prior art in view of Hunt and Galland as applied to claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13 above, and further in view of Stanley (US-5961061).

Stanley discloses a crank substantially as claimed. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to alternatively provide the crank of the admitted prior art modified as above as one taught by Stanley to wind the strap and reduce the number of parts and manufacturing costs.

Claims 2, 7, 9, 14 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The prior art of record does not show or render obvious an apparatus as recited in claims 2, 7, 9, and 14.

Applicant's arguments filed 7/5/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., "with one end seated between the drum and the u-shaped bracket so that the opposite end of the cantilever extends laterally beyond the trailer bed") are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Q. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-6952. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, from 7:00 AM to 4:30 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Katherine Matecki, can be reached on (571) 272-6951. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.  
Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.  
For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



John Q. Nguyen  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3654